(b) The estimated demand of coal during 1992-93 is 254.5 million tonnes (excluding 5.5 mt. of middlings). The targeted production of 238.20 million tonnes plus pithead stocks of 48.73 million tonnes (as on 31-3-92), are sufficient to meet the demand of all consumers except for the steel sector, where for blending purposes steel plants are importing some low ash coking coal.

(c) The Geological Survey of India has estimated (as on 1-1-92) the reserves of coal in the country as 196 billion tonnes. Out of 44 coal basins in the country, excluding North-east region, coal is being produced in 31 coal basins. In North eastern region coal mining is going on in the states of Assam and Meghalaya. The total investment in the areas of Coal India and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (as on 31-3-92) is approximately Rs. 15235 crores. The Eighth plan is yet to be finalised. The investments proposed would be firmed up by Planning Commission during finalisation of VIIIth plan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Do not arise.

Lack of spare parts for vehicles and aircrafts

414. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of vehicles including armoured vehicles and aircrafts are out of commission due to lack of spare parts;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof as on 31-3-92; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for their operation worthiness?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) While some maintenance problems have been experienced, operational worthiness is attained by procurements through indigenisation. import, retrieval/cannibalisation and conservation of equipment.

Crash of IAF Aircrafts near Ludhiana

415. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two IAF aircrafts crashed near Ludhiana on March 31, 1992 resulting in the death of eight airforce personnel;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Two IAF aircraft crashed near Khanna (Punjab) on 1st April, 1992 resulting in the death of 9 IAF personnel. The Court of Enquiry, ordered to investigate the accident, is in progress.

Supply of Milk for Defence Services

416. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government's directive, issued in 1985, milk for defence services is to be procured from Government schemes and cooperatives even if milk is below Army specifications;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take action for supply of standard milk to defence forces; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) As per Government policy, milk is to be procured from Government Milk Schemes/Co-operative Federations on the basis of legally binding specifications prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) of 1954. All milk procured by the Defence Services is within PFA specifications.